

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7596

INFO ALLHEC CAPITALS 0254

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LINE 10)

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, GW, XEC, PFOR

SUBJECT: FRANCO-GZRMAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

REF: A. BONN 20183 (NOTAL); B. PARIS 35619 (NOTAL)

1. IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION PROVIDED REFS A AND B CONVERSATIONS WITH QUAI'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PLAISANT AND WITH A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE FRG EMBASSY IN PARIS PRODUCED FOLLOWING. FRG MATERIAL IS BASED ON INTERNAL EMBASSY BRIEFING BY GZRMAN AMBASSADOR, WHO ACCOMPANIED DE GUIRINGAUD AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED.

2. ATMOSPHERE IMPROVED:

FRG EMBASSY SAYS DE GUIRINGAUD HAD MADE VZRY MUCH BETTER IMPRESSION ON GERMANS THAN HAD SAUVAGNARGUES. WHILE LATTER KNEW BERLIN PROBLEMS HIS APPROACH TO MOST ISSUES WAS CRAMPED. GENSCHER THEREFORE TAEDED TO VIEW UPCOMING SAUVAGNARGUE BILATERALS WITH MARKED
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RESERVE. DEHGUIRINGAUD, IN THIS AND PREVIOUS MULTI-

LATERAL CONTACTS WITH GZNSCHER, HAS ALREADY SHOWN A MUCH BROADER-GAUGED APPROACH AND HAS FURTHER GREAT MERIT OF EVIDENTLY ENJOYING GISCARD'S CONFIDENCE WHICH SAUVAGNARGUES DID NOT. AS A RESULT FIRST MEETING IN BONN WENT WELL, AS EVIDENCED, FOR INSTANCE, BY FACT THAT CHANCELLOR KEPT DE GUIRINGAUD MUCH LONGER THAN EXPECTED AND USED OCCASION FOR SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION WHICH HAD NOT BEEN FORESEEN.

3. FUNCTIONING OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL:

GERMAN EMBASSY SOURCE CONTINUES THAT SCHMIDT FIRST COMPLAINED MILDLY ABOUT PAPERSTORM WHICH IS LATELY INUNDATING EC SUMMIT MEETINGS, SINCE MINISTERS FIND IT SAFER TO BUCK MINOR DECISIONS TO THE TOP THAN MAKING THEM THEMSELVES. SCHMIDT CONSEQUENTLY PLEADED FOR NEW LOOK, SO THAT EUROPEAN COUNCIL COULD PERFORM INTENDED ROLE OF DELIBERATING ON AND DECIDING GENUINELY FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES. GERMANS WERE ENCOURAGED TO NOTE SUBSEQUENT RESPONSIVE ELYSEE STATEMENT REFLECTING GISCARD'S INTEREST IN "BETTER FUNCTIONING" OF EUROPEAN SUMMITS.

4. TINDEMAN'S REPORT:

BOTH FRENCH AND GERMAN ACCOUNTS NOTE IMPORTANCE OF DISCUSSION WHICH THEN TOOK PLACE ON TINDEMANS REPORT, WHICH APPARENTLY WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN DECISIONS SUBSEQUENTLY REACHED AT HAGUE. ALTHOUGH FRG SOURCE WAS MUCH MORE EXPLICIT, BOTH SOURCES AGREE THAT DE GUIRINGAUD EXPLAINED AT LENGTH, TO BOTH SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER HOW IMPOSSIBLE ANY FURTHER IMPORTANT EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONAL STEPS WERE IN

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VIEW OF PRESENT FRENCH DOMESTIC POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE.
FRG SOURCE SAYS THAT DE GUIRINGAUD THEREFORE SAID
TINDEMAN'S REPORT MUST NOW BE GIVEN "PROMPT HONORABLE
BURIAL." SCHMIDT AGREED, BUT ADDED FRENCH HAD IN
PAST LEFT HIM IN THE LURCH WITH PARLIAMENTARY CRITICS
LIKE CARSTENS AND MARX, WHO ACCUSED HIM OF NOT DOING
ENOUGH FOR EUROPE. DE GUIRINGAUD IN RESPONSE UNDER-
TOOK TO HAVE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN BONN TALK TO
THESE LEADERS ABOUT FRENCH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS ON
"EUROPE" TO TAKE SOME OF HEAT OFF THE SCHMIDT GOVERN-
MENT ON TINDEMANS.

5. OTHER EUROPEAN ISSUES AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE:

BOTH SOURCES AGREE THAT THE COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP
AND NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE WERE ALSO DISCUSSED, THE LATTER
AT LENGTH, BUT COULD OFFER NO DETAILS. BOTH ALSO
STRESSED THAT THE PUBLISHED AGENDA FOR THE MEETING
WAS INCORRECT, IN THAT A LONG LIST OF SUBJECTS THE
FRG SIDE HAD FORESEEN, INCLUDING A DISCUSSION OF
PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICIES, AFRICAN
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ISSUES, ETC. WERE IN FACT NOT DISCUSSED FOR LACK OF
TIME.

6. MBFR:

FINALLY, BOTH SOURCES INFORMED US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE
THAT BOTH GENSCHER AND SCHMIDT MADE AN INSISTANT PLEA
TO DE GUIRINGAUD FOR FRENCH UNDERSTANDING ON MBFR.
DE GUIRINGAUD REPORTEDLY TOOK NOTE, WAS PLEASANT
BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS BEYOND A PROMISE OF AN EARLY
FRENCH ANSWER.
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